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CUT AND RUN
Charity box burglars caught on CCTV stealing from salon

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£3k down: The Hair Xcel shop was raided by thieves, inset left; Senior stylist Collette Watkins and shop manager Marco Rogers. Village Pizza was also burgled, inset right

Deadlinepix KT74379

CUT AND RUN

Charity box burglars caught on CCTV stealing from salon

Burglars have been caught on CCTV stealing thousands of pounds worth of equipment and money from a hair salon last week.

Hair Xcel in Claremont Road was ransacked in the early hours of Sunday of about £3,000-worth of equipment including an iPad, three hair straighteners and money.

A charity box collecting for the Fircroft Trust, containing up to £40, was also stolen.

Stylist Collette Watkins said: "I worked so hard to engage customers

by HANA HAUSMEISTER

hana.hausmeister@london.newsquest.co.uk

and staff, plus my own tips, to help this local charity but just can't believe these people took the charity box with them."

Marco Rogers, Hair Xcel manager, discovered the break-in with his brother on Monday morning as they were scheduled to do a small film shoot for an advert.

Mr Rogers said: "All the money from the till was taken, even the

pennies, the charity box from the Fircroft Trust, the safe with everything attached to it."

He said the strong lighting in the salon made the CCTV footage very clear. It was handed over to police who are investigating.

The footage shows two men wearing protective gloves. They are believed to have climbed in through a window over the salon door.

Mr Rogers said: "I was a bit more concerned and scared at the fact that this is a lovely area in Surbiton.

"What I would say to the local businesses is to lock up your shop and make sure you have good enough lighting so the faces show up on the CCTV. Do not have anything ever on show."

Village Pizza was also burgled in the early hours of Monday. The shop front window was smashed and the cash in the till was stolen.

Kingston police said no arrests had been made and enquiries were ongoing but there was no evidence yet to link the crimes.

Inside

■ Security van theft gang face jail after being rammed off road page 4

■ Xmas shop arsonist had been discharged by mental health trust. page 7



■ Football superfan remembered with Ks scarves draped on coffin . page 10

■ Hospital boss joins fight to get 'dangerous' station gap filled page 11

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Surrey Comet Security cash box gang faces jail

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SPORT

► Banned Esher coach Ollie Smith demands RFU action

the Source

Drug dealing comedy script moves action to Kingston



Three men who stalked security vans in a stolen car waiting for the perfect moment to grab cash boxes did not plan to use force, a jury has ruled.

Girry Richardson, 20, Charlie Critchley, 19, and Nicholas George Carter, 20, were rammed off the road by armed police in New Malden on August 21, while planning a raid.

They were cleared of conspiracy to rob by an Old Bailey jury last week. They will now be sentenced on their earlier guilty pleas to conspiracy to steal.

Detective Constable Danny Watts from the flying squad said: "Their defence was always that they agreed that they were together in a stolen car, they were in possession of a GPS jammer and they were in possession of an industrial grinder."

"But they were always going to get themselves into a position that if at any stage they saw a guard put the cash box down – they would snatch the box from the floor. The jury went along with that."

During the trial prosecutor Sam Brown said: "These defendants engaged in long and determined observations. If the guard resisted, why would the defendants not use some force?"

On the day, police officers were tipped off by an off duty police officer who saw two of the men

by NAZIA DEWJI

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loitering outside the William Hill bookies in High Street by Grafton Road, New Malden.

The men were seen intently staring at a cash in transit van and were wearing hoodies and gloves in the summer.

The trio began their journey in Surbiton and drove through Cheam, Morden and New Malden following vehicles belonging to security companies G4S or Loomis for more than five hours.

Officers conducted a "hard stop" by ramming into their stolen black Nissan Juke in Burlington Road, New Malden on the afternoon of August 21.

In the drama a packed 131 bus full of passengers and a silver BMW car was hit.

At the time Candice Nicoll, 28, who was travelling to Raynes Park on the top deck of the bus, said: "We felt the bus get hit. Then everyone was screaming. There were so many guns. We just ducked in case any shots were fired. It was just chaotic."

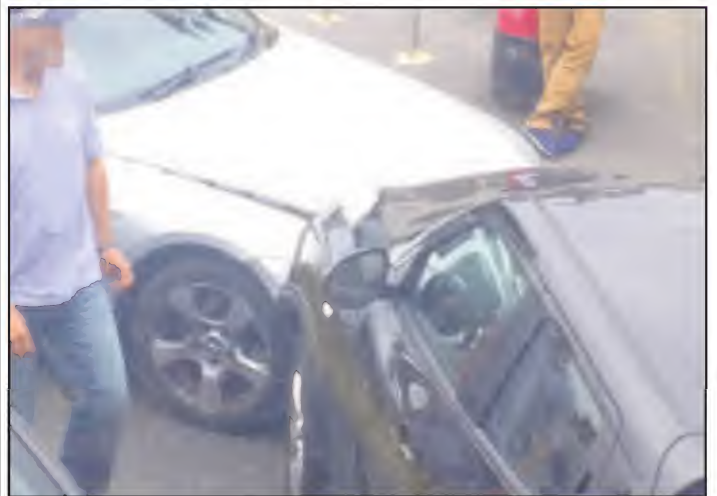
Richardson, of the Hollands, Worcester Park, Critchley, of St George's Gardens, Surbiton, and Carter, from Chingford, will be sentenced at the Old Bailey on March 8.

Rammed: The stolen Nissan

Deadlinepix KT69799



You're nicked: This is the moment Girry Richardson, top, and Charlie Critchley, bottom – plotting to snatch thousands of pounds in cash from a security van – were caught by armed policemen. The men were rammed off the road by police in New Malden. The two men, together with a third man – Nicholas George Carter – pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal; Aftermath of police ramming the car, below



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Kingston Guardian: 31,308

Average net circulation: January 2 to July 1, 2012; 99.8% free



Audience on the web:

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Musical kid: Goatboy appears on stage Deadlinepix KT73765



Winged wonder: Alison from the Guild of Taxonomists, aka Batwoman

Festival was event not to be myth-ed

by JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

A man in a sardine tin, a giant on a Segway, and four huge guinea pigs all braved freezing conditions for this year's Seething Festival in Surbiton.

Residents piled into St Andrew's Square on Sunday to celebrate the mythical victory of heroic goat-boy Lefi Ganderson over the dastardly giant Thamas Deeton.

Bewildered bystanders then witnessed the traditional procession through Surbiton, with dozens of guild members – cheesemakers, tarmac miners, taxonomists, curriers and water-bearers – led by a model of the giant himself to musical accompaniment.

Owen Robinson, 11, watched the procession pass by Sainsbury's in Victoria Road. He said: "It's really loud, and quite weird."

Onlooker Sandie Syme, visiting her son in Surbiton, said: "We need as much madness as possible at the moment. Surbiton's got such a nice community spirit – I suppose it goes back to TV's *The Good Life*."

Co-organiser Aniela Zaba was surprised by the number of people who come along in spite of bad weather.

She said: "We really embrace where we live. You watch as the procession goes round and people join in – it gets bigger and bigger every year."

"We've been called everything from zany and bonkers to madcap."

The fictional tale of Lefi

and the giant was cooked up by cheese-lovers from the Homage de Fromage club at Brighton Road pub the Lamb.

And "Lamblord" Adam Lewis was on hand on Sunday to play the part of the giant Thamas, with colleagues Rob and Georgia ensuring high spirits behind a portable bar in the square.

Profits from the tent will go to one of the Kingston mayor's charities, the Community Brain.

Myth-enthusiast Robin Hutchinson is one of the originators of the Lefi legend.

He said: "Events like this are about allowing people to rediscover the child inside them."

"There's something quite magical about fun."

"There's a danger we live a life without an opportunity to let go and smile."

Children were entertained by players acting out the legend, including a dramatic reading.

Myth-understood:
Enthusiast
Robin
Hutchinson as
Lord Scroley
Deadlinepix KT73765



Big attraction: A giant takes a rest against the railings

Deadlinepix KT73765



Hair-brained fun: The Lake-Gaynor family adopted a tache motif KT73765

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Sorry for poor service

Promises: Commuters wait for trains at Surbiton station

Deadlinepix KT74207

South West Trains and Network Rail have apologised for the poor winter service ahead of a meeting to discuss improvements at Surbiton station.

But the train operator has promised extra seats, more coaches and longer trains starting to arrive this summer.

An independent report released last week criticised Network Rail for failing to deal with snowfall and heavy rain on London and south-east lines.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) criticised train punctuality in London as falling "even lower than thought previously", between October 14 last year and January 5.

London lines are predicted to fall

by HANA HAUSMEISTER

hana.hausmeister@london.newsquest.co.uk

1 per cent short of their punctuality target of 93 per cent, by the end of March 2014.

The ORR report said that across the UK passengers had suffered from some substantial over-runs of engineering works over Christmas due to poor management and "several instances of basic operational planning mistakes causing delays".

A spokeswoman for the South West Trains and Network Rail Alliance said more coaches and longer trains would arrive this summer as part of an extra 115,000 peak morning hour seats to be provided across London by 2019.

She said: "We apologise to our passengers for some of the recent issues they have experienced."

Karen George, Conservative councillor for Berrylands, has arranged a meeting with South West Trains and Network Rail to discuss increasing the frequency of trains at Surbiton.

She said: "They seem to be using the excuse a lot this year of over-running engineering works. The service this year is markedly worse than it was last year and we need to address these issues."

Despite the disruptions, overall satisfaction on the lines has reached an all-time high of 85 per cent, with passengers very or fairly satisfied with London and south-east operators.

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Sewers collapse

Eden Street may be closed again as Thames Water predict more sewer line collapses.

Commuters suffered bus disruptions for a week despite claims from the water company that Eden Street would re-open on Tuesday.

The road was blocked last Friday due to a collapsed sewer and buses on the street were diverted to Wheatfield Way.

A Kingston Council spokesman said the collapse was spotted by CCTV cameras on Eden Street.

He said due to the large number of buses stopping on the road, Thames Water and Transport for London decided it would be safest to divert them for the duration of the repairs.

Thames Water claimed it had finished resurfacing the road on Tuesday morning, but there was still a large pothole.

Christmas shopping arsonist pleads guilty

by ROSS LOGAN

ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

A man with mental health issues was discharged by care practitioners weeks before launching a series of arson attacks in Kingston, a court has heard.

Barry Davies, 52, pleaded guilty to 11 counts of arson between December 15 and December 18 last year, including seven in Kingston town centre.

In each case, he entered a shop and torched an item of clothing using a lighter, causing chaos as Christmas shoppers were forced to evacuate the stores.

At Kingston Crown Court on Friday, Michael Green, defending, told Judge Richard Southwell his client had a background of mental health problems.

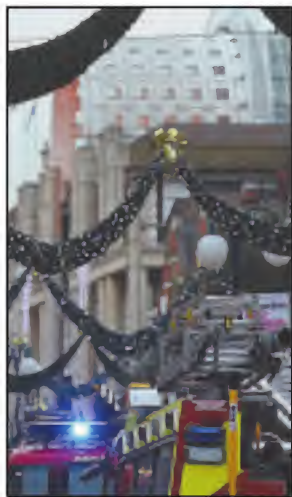
He said Davies, of Roxborough Avenue, Isleworth, had been diagnosed as bipolar in 2007, and sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

He spent three months in a mental health facility.

Mr Green said: "His home circumstances are very difficult. His father is bed-ridden and has dementia, his mother is registered blind and his sister is an agoraphobic."

"He is effectively a full-time carer for his family members."

Davies was on medication for his health problems, and had



Christmas chaos: Fire crews in Clarence Street on December 18 last year KT2748

been under the care of the West London Mental Health NHS Trust.

Mr Green said: "The mental health team saw fit to discharge him from their care in November, leaving it up to him to decide when to take his medication."

On December 15, Davies set fire to clothes in Marks and Spencer

and TK Maxx in Ealing. Over the next two days, he started fires in Sainsbury's in Richmond and Debenhams in Wandsworth.

On December 18, he travelled to Kingston, setting fire to garments in Reese, White Stuff, Monsoon, both Marks and Spencer stores, Gap and Superdry.

The fires brought the town centre to a standstill, as both the Bentall Centre and M&S were evacuated.

Davies appeared via video link from Wandsworth prison, where he has been in custody since his arrest.

He spoke only to confirm his name and to enter his plea.

A spokesman for West London Mental Health NHS trust said: "We cannot comment about the specific nature of an individual's care. However, both care plan and discharge decisions are based on comprehensive clinical assessments, which include an assessment of risks, based on the presentation of the individual at that time."

"Where concerns are raised by family members, we always work with them as far as we are able to, giving clear advice about what to do if they are concerned about their relative's immediate wellbeing."

Davies will be sentenced following the completion of psychiatric reports.

HMV to stay open

Kingston's HMV store has been spared yet again in a second wave of closures.

Administrators Deloitte said a further 37 of the music retailer's stores will cease trading, affecting 464 jobs.



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Garage fears for future

by HANA HAUSMEISTER

hana.hausmeister@london.newsquest.co.uk

A doctor's surgery could be part of a development built on a Surbiton garage that has served residents for almost 50 years.

Loyal customers are campaigning to save Surbiton Hill Garage in the Avenue, following an application to build a block of flats and a GP surgery on the site.

George Matkin, the garage's owner, has started a petition to try to save it, with more than 300 signatures so far.

He said: "If people value their local garage they need to sign the petition and if they cannot come to me I can come to them."

"I have no problem with spending all my time trying to get these signatures."

The landowner, Mr M Daly, a Dublin-based businessman, applied to build a block of flats on the site in 2007. His application was rejected because it was an "unacceptable loss of an existing employment use".

He has returned now six years later with a proposal for a doctor's surgery within the development.

He could not be reached for comment as the Kingston Guardian went to press.

A spokesman for Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group, which holds the purse strings of NHS spending in the borough, said it had not heard from anybody



Desperate: George Matkin employs four other mechanics at the Surbiton Hill Garage

Deadlinepix KT74090

looking to open a new surgery in Surbiton.

A resident has claimed that a Surbiton GP surgery has already agreed to move into the building, if the application goes through.

Mike Conn, 53, of the Ridings, said: "The new Surbiton Health Centre is going to have the old Oak Hill Centre in it, and that is less than a mile away, so who they would want at the doctor's surgery, I do not know."

Four existing GP surgeries in

Surbiton will be relocating to the new health centre at the beginning of March, as part of a programme aiming to centralise services.

The garage was formed in 1964 and Mr Matkin has been running it for more than 25 years.

Mr Conn said: "Last year my wife had an accident with her foot and hobbled around a bit."

"When she struggled to get out of the car they helped fill up the car for her. You do not get that kind of service everywhere."

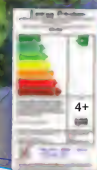
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On your marks: Students who did not make the grade will not have their papers re-marked



GCSE re-mark rejected

by NAZIA DEWJI

ndewji@london.newsquest.co.uk

Students across the borough will be disappointed after a court rejected a bid for GCSE grade boundaries to be overturned.

The controversy began after GCSE English results were said to be lower because of the changed grade boundaries implemented last summer.

An alliance of schools, teaching unions and councils brought legal action against exam boards AQA and Edexcel, as well as exam regulator Ofqual, but it was dismissed in a High Court ruling last Wednesday.

Had the action been successful, students across the UK could have had their English exams re-marked and potentially graded up, after more than 10,000 pupils missed out on a grade C.

Southborough headteacher Niall

Smith said: "The High Court's decision is disappointing, but not entirely unexpected.

"What all students, parents and teachers want as we move towards this summer's exam season is a transparent and fair system of assessment.

"This is a reasonable expectation for us to have and the exam boards and Ofqual have a clear responsibility to deliver on this expectation."

Chessington Councillor Patricia Bamford, lead member for children and young people, said: "It is unfair some students were penalised for not taking their exams during a particular timescale.

"Education should be graded on

an even scale and when the marking thresholds were changed in the middle of the academic year, some students were disadvantaged."

Youth Parliament MP, Georgia Bell, who is a year 11 student at Coombe Girls' School, said: "It is quite disappointing for a lot of students who might have been quite stressed."

Last month when GCSE result tables were released by the Department for Education, Southborough High School showed the biggest drop in performance with GCSE performance down by 11 per cent from 2011.

A Department for Education (DfE) spokeswoman said: "The judgement demonstrates overall Ofqual got it right last year. Attention can now focus on reforming GCSEs for 2015."

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Funeral: Dorothy Hall's coffin draped in a Kingstonian scarf
Deadlinepix KT74242



Tributes to a superfan

by **ROSS LOGAN**

ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

Fans, players and staff at Kingstonian Football Club said goodbye to their oldest supporter recently.

The funeral of Dorothy Hall was held at St Agatha's Church in King's Road.

Ms Hall, a life member of the club, died on January 29 – her 92nd birthday – after failing to recover from a hip operation.

Her coffin was adorned in the red and white of her beloved Ks, and the programme of service featured the club's crest.

Colin Deadman, the former chairman of Kingstonian Supporters' Club and a friend of Ms Hall's, said: "Dorothy was a unique person."

"Her life was Kingstonian, and one of the highlights in her later years was when the club gave her a surprise 80th birthday party."

"She did not go to matches in the winter, and I would call her up every Saturday afternoon to tell her the scores."

"She was a very nice person and there will be a lot of people at the club who will miss her."

Former Kingstonian chairman Jimmy Cochrane said: "She was very generous to the club in all departments, from the juniors upwards."



Oldest fan: Dorothy with Kingstonian players and staff

Peace of mind starts here

A new, modern, fully equipped Nursing Floor at The White House Nursing Home in New Malden has opened its doors to the public.

The occasion was celebrated by the Mayor of The Royal Borough of Kingston, Councillor Mary Heathcote OBE at a public ceremony on Friday 11th January 2013, when the floor was officially opened.

The conception for this brand new floor came from owner and long time New Malden resident and business man Mr Badrudin Manji aged 76.

Mr Manji first built the nursing home over 25 years ago and over the years he has responded to the increasing demand for high quality nursing care in New Malden. Following significant investment and extensive building work, this new Nursing floor takes the capacity of The White House Nursing Home from 25 to 30 residents.

Our friendly team of staff are dedicated to providing for the needs of the residents, their families and friends and aim to provide the highest possible standards of care at all times.

Our new floor offers spacious single rooms which are tastefully and individually decorated with modern and convenient facilities including; ceiling hoists for safe and easy transfer, profiling nursing beds, twenty four hour wireless call-bell system, digital TV, wifi and internet. A large assisted bathroom, lounge/dining area and hair salon are also located on this floor.

Activities for everyone

The White House Nursing Home places great importance on supporting residents to be as active and independent as possible. This is facilitated by a wide and varied activity programme which is run by our dedicated Activities Coordinator.

We have our own resident wheelchair accommodating transport enabling residents to enjoy regular outings.

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Train users are tired of minding the gap

by ROSS LOGAN

ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk

Rail users have launched a petition to get the notorious gap at Norbiton station fixed, after plans to extend the platform were announced.

For years, commuters have complained about the distance between platform and carriage, with at least three reports of customers slipping down the gap and injuring themselves.

But, following news that Network Rail will extend Norbiton's and Kingston's platforms this summer, campaigners are asking station users to sign a petition to get the problem sorted.

They are being backed by Kingston Hospital chief executive Kate Grimes.

Ms Grimes said: "We get a lot of patients that use the station and the gap makes it very difficult for some people.

"Those with children, pushchairs or wheelchairs; people with fractures and the elderly – it's very difficult for these people to use the station.

"I have to get off the train every day. I struggle and I see other people struggle too.

"We would support any action to sort the problem and improve access to public transport."

John Hall, treasurer of the One

Norbiton community group, said: "It just seems mad that they are going to do a huge amount of work in a few months and not sort out the gap.

"I think they could put a shallow ramp in to bring the platform up to the same level as the train carriage."

Jill Preston, chairwoman of the Cambridge Road estate's residents' association, said: "When we asked residents at our last meeting what their main concerns were, the gap at the station was one of the things they wanted fixed.

"It is dangerous. People have slipped through that gap – I've done it myself.

"If they are doing work on the station they should fix that at the same time."

But Network Rail said it did not have the

funding to do both at the same time.

A spokeswoman said: "Unfortunately, it is not a simple fix and to do so would require substantial investment for which we are not funded.

"We always welcome and take on board concerns and views of interested parties, but we have to make sure we deliver the best value railway we can, given the funding we have.

"With the demand for rail higher now than in any recent decade, we have a massive investment programme to address the critical issues of capacity and performance, which is why the platform extensions are so necessary to enable longer trains to run."



Mind the gap: Protesters make their feelings known BT74129



Gap gang: Protesters gather at Norbiton station

Deadlinepix BT74129

Details blocked

The Ministry of Justice has refused to reveal how a convicted murderer serving a life sentence escaped a courtroom with a weapon before he was stopped by security guards outside Kingston College.

Richard Kwakye managed to flee Kingston County Court on June 18, with a piece of wood with a screw fixed to the end, before guards caught up with him.

Kwakye was sentenced to three years in jail last month in addition to the 35 years he is already serving for the murder of 19-month-old toddler Siariah Letang, who died from smoke inhalation.

In a letter to the Kingston Guardian, a spokeswoman from Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service said: "We have concluded the public interest favours withholding the information."



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This week we look at Kingston Savers – a credit union providing an ethical alternative to the loan sharks

Lending a helping hand out of poverty

by ROSS LOGAN

ross.logan@london.newsquest.co.uk



Short of cash and need a loan? Rarely a day goes by without most people hearing or reading these sort of offers.

In this age of belt-tightening and cutbacks, the promise of quick-fix payday loans is everywhere – on television, radio, billboards, newspapers and the internet.

Many people, in a rush to pay off bills, credit cards, rent or mortgages, have been tempted by the offer of instant cash as a way of solving short-term money problems.

But by doing so, some have only exacerbated their situation – the lenders' crippling interest rates leaving them in even greater debt than before.

And that is why Michael Green, from Kingston Savers, is keen to offer an alternative.

Kingston Savers was set up in April 2012 after credit union SurreySave, itself established only months previously, was granted permission by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) to extend its remit into the borough.

Like all credit unions, it offers its members affordable loans and a competitive rate of

interest on savings, as well as free life insurance and loan protection cover.

Unlike banks and payday lenders, it does not impose penalties on those who pay their loan back early, and all members' deposits are protected under the FSA's Compensation Scheme.

Mr Green has spent years trying to set up a credit union in Kingston, and now that it is here, its importance cannot be overstated.

He said: "Kingston is not 100 per cent affluent with no issues. There are serious issues around poverty.

"The last five years has really motivated people to make sure we don't miss out on credit unions.

"Kingston Voluntary Action has wanted to add a credit union to Kingston's voluntary sector for 20 years, but the process has been difficult.

"It was only possible through a combination of legislative change, the help of Kingston Council, the financial and economic situation and volunteers, particularly Max Freedman, Nick Kilby, Rob Lee and Adrian McKeon."



Offering an alternative:
Michael Green,
from Kingston
Savers

Kingston Savers has secured enough funding from Kingston Council for the next three years, but is keen to attract more members in order to continue helping those

in need of financial help.

Mr Green said: "If they are in need and can show they can sustain their repayments on a loan from the credit union, it is clearly a much more

sustainable product for them than a payday loan or doorstep lending.

"There is enough research and anecdotal evidence to suggest payday loans and

doorstep lending is not a panacea. We do not apologise for the fact that if we can make the numbers of legal loan sharks and payday loan companies in Kingston decline we are doing our job."

So far, Kingston Savers' members include Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey and Richmond and Kingston MP Zac Goldsmith.

Mr Green said: "We need people who are happy to save and want to get more in tune with the habit of saving, for philosophical and philanthropic reasons. And those are as good a reasons as any."

For more information on Kingston Savers, visit surreysave.co.uk or email kingston.savers@kva.org.uk.

Kingston Guardian is backing the Love Kingston initiative which is supporting five charities: Oxygen, Kingston Foodbank, women's refuge Hestia, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness and Kingston Savers.

To donate to Love Kingston text 70070 with the code LVKG00 and the amount you wish to donate, or visit the website at love-kington.org.uk.

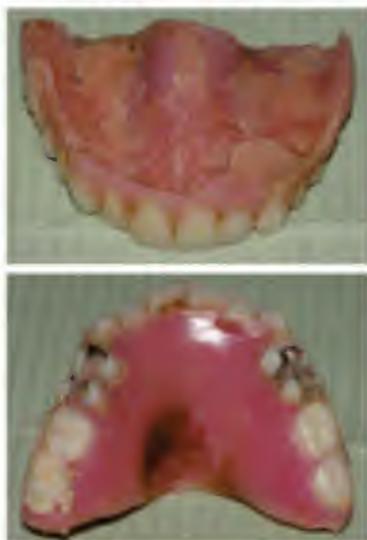
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The NHS is for patients

We of Kingston Hospital Unison branch welcome the report on Mid-Staffordshire Hospital's catalogue of failures.

We have long been campaigning for hospitals, as well as those that commission the services, not to focus on the financial drivers for healthcare, but on the quality of outcomes for patients.

The NHS is for patients, not for anything else.

We perfectly understand the financial pressures that the whole NHS is under, but someone has to put up a fight when it is obvious things are dangerous and patients lives are at risk.

The Nursing Times' survey of nurses shows staff frustrated at not being able to give the care they want to and feeling that no one is listening.

The response of the Government is to talk about a chief inspector of health. Have we not already got layers and layers of people supposedly responsible for quality and practices?

How about a properly funded body with representatives of local groups and the local authority with statutory powers to refer and inspect?

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Kingston Hospital

Naming it Red Lion Square would mark pub's heritage

Philip Mahne's letter (Comments are an insult to Russians living here, February 14), contained several inaccurate personal comments about John McCarthy, but I am less clear about what his point was, as his letter covered so many unrelated topics.

But I can pick up on his comment about residents.

I and many of my neighbours in Tolworth who live near the site of the old Red Lion were indeed bemused by

Linden Homes' choice of name for their development.

If they were not going to include four extra letters on their marketing material and call it Red Lion Square, why use Red at all – why not blue, green or yellow?

If Mr Mahne lived in the royal borough of Kingston then he would know how lucky we are to have a rich heritage that the Kingston Museum and Heritage Service and the Kingston Society are

dedicated to preserving.

Sadly some historic buildings will be lost, but I think we should remember them and street names are an excellent way to do that.

I live in King Charles Road which, along with Villiers Road, was named to commemorate a civil war battle in 1648 in the area of what is now Surbiton library.

To name the new development Red Lion Square, which after all will be accessed from

Red Lion Road, would be a wonderful way to remember the historic building that featured in Tolworth life for so long.

I very much hope that Linden Homes change their minds and I support Kingston Museum and Heritage Service and the Kingston Society in their efforts to persuade them to do so.

DEBBIE MASON
Surbiton

Cycle path good idea

I am very surprised at the mounting opposition to the proposed cycle path across Fairfield.

I thought there was general agreement that more off-road cycling paths were needed in order to promote cycling, cut back on car use and provide safer routes to school for children.

This proposal would make a small, but significant contribution to these objectives.

Segregating pedestrians and cyclists across the park would also make it safer for all and the funding being made available from Transport for London would enable the central pathway to receive a much-needed facelift.

I gather this scheme is now being referred back to the neighbourhood committee, so I hope good sense will prevail and it will proceed.

If it is thrown out it will make Kingston a laughing stock in terms of the green agenda.

It would also be such a shame after the excitement generated by Bradley Wiggins' fantastic Olympic cycle ride through the town.

JEFF HOLLINGWORTH
Kingston

No association with communism

John McCarthy, vice-chairman of the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service, had every right to state his objections to the historic Red Lion site in Tolworth being renamed Red Square.

The latter was where successive Soviet leaders displayed their military force that threatened western democracy.

Let us never forget reds like Stalin murdered millions of Russians in their

purges and enforced five-year plans.

So what is Philip Mahne talking about in his KGB-style attack (Comments are an insult to Russians living here, February 14)?

Tolworth has no associations with Moscow, communism or Red Square and does not wish to be reminded about the bad old days of the Cold War.

By what right does Mr Mahne call Mr McCarthy a "jobsworth", since the

latter's work as vice-chairman is purely voluntary and unpaid?

And why does Mr Mahne then attack the latter for not fighting the impending council tax rise? That is totally irrelevant.

Let us always remember it was the Russian people who rid themselves of communism and everything that Red Square stood for.

JEFF WALLDER
Worcester Park

Plaque story

I am staggered such an insignificant matter about my school merited an article (Plaque covered up by foliage, February 21).

The plaque is visible from the school's entrance and the bush trimmed regularly. I am very proud of Maple Infants' School – I have worked here 23 years.

We are a popular, successful school and I wish only to get on with my job.

LIZ ROBINSON
Headteacher

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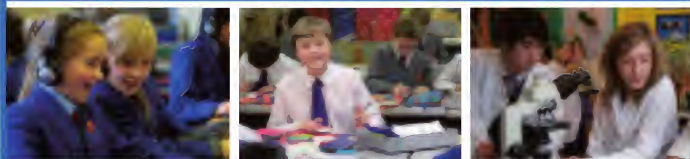
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In 1979 Marymount was the first girls' school in the UK to adopt the International Baccalaureate Diploma programme in the belief that it provides the most challenging and stimulating educational offering to the sixth former.

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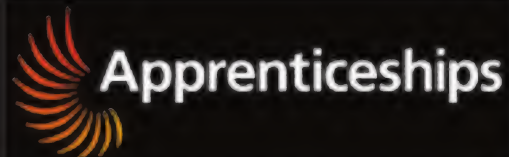
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National Apprenticeship Week
(11-15)

APPRENTICESHIPS
2013



Your chance to earn while you learn

National Apprenticeship Week is co-ordinated by the National Apprenticeship Service and is designed to celebrate apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals and businesses.

Now in its sixth year, National Apprenticeship Week is aimed at raising the profile of apprentices among employers, individuals, teachers, parents and the media.

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job with training so you can earn while you learn and pick up recognised qualifications as you go.

If you live in England, are over 16 and not in full time education you can apply for an apprenticeship. They take between one and four years to

The sixth annual National Apprenticeship Week takes place from March 11 to 15. It will highlight the positive impact they have had for both employers and individuals wanting work

complete and cover 1,400 job roles in a wide range of industries, from engineering to financial advice, veterinary nursing to accountancy.

Key Benefits:

- earn a salary
- get paid holidays
- receive training
- gain qualifications
- learn job-specific skills

Do I get paid?

Yes, all employed appren-

tices will get a wage. The current 'apprentice National Minimum Wage' is currently £2.65 per hour.

However, as skills develop, many employers tend to increase wages – in fact, research has found that apprentices earn an average of £170 net pay per week.

The apprentice national minimum wage applies to all 16 to 18 year olds and to those aged 19 and over in the first

year of their apprenticeship. If you reach age 19 and have completed the first year of your apprenticeship your employer must pay you at least the full national minimum wage rate for those aged 18 to 20.

What types of apprenticeships are there?

Apprenticeships are available in all sectors and industries throughout England. There are more than 250 dif-

ferent types of apprenticeships available offering more than 1,400 job roles, in a range of industry sectors, from engineering to boat building, veterinary nursing to accountancy.

How do I find out about apprenticeship opportunities?

The National Apprenticeship Service also runs apprenticeships vacancies. This is an online system whereby employers and learning providers can advertise and manage vacancies, and potential apprentices can search, apply and then manage their applications for apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships opportunities anywhere in England. The system is free and available on

the apprenticeships website at www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

What are the advantages of an apprenticeship?

Getting qualified while on the job can also mean:

- you work better and more effectively
- it can set you up to move into new and better jobs
- you get better pay
- you get to experience new and different challenges
- your existing skills and knowledge are recognised and can help you gain a qualification faster
- you learn at your own pace and get support when you need it
- better job security
- you gain skills and knowledge which can be used across a range of jobs and industries.



Brooklands can help you train an apprentice

Surrey employers are in for a treat on Monday, March 11, when they can tuck into high tea at Brooklands College Weybridge campus as part of a special apprenticeship event held to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week.

The event was organised by the college to help employers find out how apprenticeships can work for their business. The apprenticeship team led by Anita Winter, apprenticeship manager, will welcome employers to the tea-time

event. Staff will be on hand to talk to businesses about the benefits of employing an apprentice.

New funding opportunities for employing apprentices will also be explained where the government contributes £1,500 to the cost of employing an apprentice.

Brooklands College currently provides apprenticeship training for apprentices in a wide range of vocational areas including: engineering, business administration, construc-

tion, hair and beauty, childcare, catering, IT, sport and customer services.

If any company is considering taking on an apprentice, the Brooklands Apprenticeship team is keen to talk to them about training opportunities at the college.

The college also has young people eager to start an apprenticeship programme.

Telephone Anita Winter on 01932 797 920 for more information on how the college can help you.

It's a piece of cake taking on an apprentice

www.brooklands.ac.uk



Come and have **High Tea** at **Brooklands College** on **Monday 11th March from 4pm - 6pm** and find out how and why.

email Tessa.Bridle@brooklands.ac.uk to reserve your place or telephone **01932 797 769**.



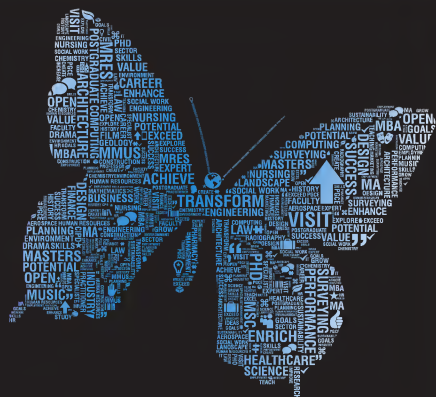
Brooklands College
Celebrating National Apprenticeship week - 11th to 15th March

“ Boosting apprenticeships is a win-win, offering a much needed foot onto the ladder of success for school leavers, while also being hugely rewarding for the companies involved.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London



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POSTGRADUATE OPEN EVENING

When: Wednesday 20 March 2013, 5–7.30pm

Where: Penrhyn Road Campus, Kingston, KT1 2EE

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* Source: Sutton Trust, The Postgraduate Premium report, February 2013

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NHS Continuing Healthcare

Introduction of deadlines for requests for assessments of eligibility for cases during the period 2004–2012.

South West London

On 15 March 2012, the Department of Health announced the introduction of deadlines for new cases which require assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding.

The deadlines apply to previously un-assessed periods of care, which occurred in the following time periods:

PERIOD	DEADLINE
1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012	31 March 2013

Individuals should contact their local Primary Care Trust (PCT) Continuing Healthcare Team for further information on how to notify the PCT of a request for assessment of eligibility. This notification should be given within the deadlines above. Some cases may be accepted after the dates outlined above if there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.

In the London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Richmond, Wandsworth, Sutton and Merton please contact:

Continuing Care Team, NHS South West London, Wimbledon Bridge House,
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Email: wan-pct.Retrospectivecase@nhs.net

Tel: 020 8812 7712

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Young adventurers can enjoy a taste of the outdoors with the Really Wild Show's Michaela Strachan at the Rose this spring, writes *Hana Hausmeister*.

Really Wild Adventures is a stage adaptation of Strachan's book of animal poems, based on real-life experiences like extracting a tooth from a polar bear, and more extravagant tales like having a spitting competition with a cobra.

Strachan says: "We decided to adapt it into a children's theatre show, for instance with a cobra puppet and a water pistol. In the end we get kids up to shoot water into the audience."

It will be an interactive romp through the alphabet, featuring everything from antelopes to zebras.

She says: "I read a poem about bats but I do it hanging upside down. It is a stage show interwoven with stories of animals. It's a lot of fun and full of energy."

With a television career spanning 25 years, including the hugely popular Really Wild Show, Strachan has made a name as an environmental activist and all-round animal-lover.

Though she lives in South Africa, Strachan grew up surrounded by the Kingston lifestyle and still remembers the Bentall Centre when it was a

department store.

She says: "Kingston was really my stomping ground. I can't believe how much it's changed. There are a lot of alleyways that you can walk down. They have got some quite interesting stores."

Her book, Really Wild Adventures, is packed full of poems aiming to teach children about the diverse and wonderful world of wildlife.

It is illustrated with colourful pictures and photographs of snakes, wild cats, orangutans and rhinos.

The English Shakespeare Company's award-winning director, Malachai Bogdanov, will take the reins to bring this adventure to life.

I read a poem about bats but I do it hanging upside down

MICHAELA STRACHAN

● Really Wild Adventures; the Rose, High Street, Kingston; April 7, 3pm; £8-£10; call 08444 821556; rosetheatre kingston.org.

Picture: Simon Nash

Free TIME
Thursday
February
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WATER wasteland

Eco-warriors can watch a screening of new environmental documentary Plastic Shores at Kingston University.

The debut from filmmaker Edward Scott-Clarke features interviews with an ocean-rowing world record holder, a US congressman, and the son of ocean explorer Jacques

Cousteau.

A scathing look at the effect of litter on the marine environment, the documentary exposes the irreversible damage society does to our ecosystem.

It features the views of Roz Savage, the first woman to row solo across the Atlantic, and Congressman Sam Farr, who has been active in championing ocean health.

Viewers can talk to the director after the screening.

● Plastic Shores; at Kingston University, Penhryn Road, Kingston; March 4, 6.45pm-8.45pm; free but donations welcome; visit plasticshores-movie.com.

DREAM performance

Internationally known tenor Neil Jenkins has teamed up with Thames Philharmonic Choir and Thames Youth Choir, which includes Tiffin Boys' and Girls' schools, for a major performance.

Dream of Gerontius is about the death of a devout old man and the journey of his soul.

● Dream of Gerontius; Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace, London; March 16, 7.30pm; £12 to £25; call 020 7730 4500.

MUSIC COVERED: New Malden-based covers duo Goldeneye return to play their home town. Keyboard player Al Ferrier and singer Chantal Brown perform pop songs from the past 50 years.
● Goldeneye; The Fountain, 120 Malden Road, New Malden, March 30, 9pm; johnbarras.com/pub/fountain-new-malden/c1516.

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GILBERT AND
SULLIVAN ABRIDGED

MerryMusical

A stirring evening of musical comedy awaits audience members at the Rose Theatre next month, writes Ross Logan.

Gilbert and Sullivan Abridged comes to Kingston for one night only on Sunday, March 10, featuring all 14 of the Victorian duo's operettas squeezed into an hour-and-a-half.

Librettist WS Gilbert and

composer Arthur Sullivan are responsible for some of the most enduring musicals in history, including HMS Pinafore, Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado.

Starring Jane Webster, Eric Carte and David Osmond, Gilbert and Sullivan Abridged condenses all of the pair's major works, from The Gondoliers to Patience, into a fun-packed 90 minutes.

Expect rousing renditions of I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General, For He Is An Englishman, and A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One when the show comes to town.

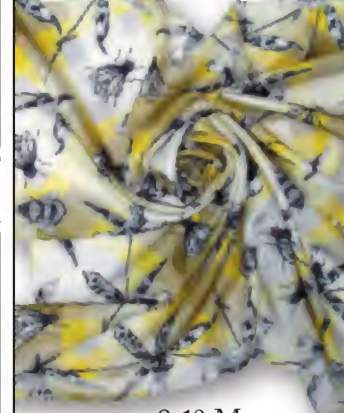
Directed by Joe Harmston, Gilbert and Sullivan Abridged promises to delight aficionados and newcomers.

A Rose Theatre spokesman says: "Condensing all 14 Gilbert and Sullivan operettas into one hilarious 90-minute show is a brilliant idea. We can't wait to see it on our stage."

• Gilbert and Sullivan Abridged; Rose Theatre, High Street Kingston; March 10, 7.30pm; £10 to £18.50; 08444 821556, rosetheatre.kingston.org.

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Key factors to remember

Buyers advised to take account of seven point checklist

With the number of house hunters on the rise, estate agents are advising prospective buyers of to take account of key long-term considerations before buying a home.

Latest figures from the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) show that the number of house hunters registered per member branch is increasing, while data from the Council of Mortgage Lenders revealed the number of first time buyers is also at a five-year high.

Mark Hayward, President of the NAEA, said: "It is important for those who haven't been through the process before or are returning to the market to take into account a number of factors before buying a property.

"Issues like access to the property and shared boundaries can sometimes be a source of friction. But if you know your rights and

responsibilities before moving in, there is less chance of problems arising."

The NAEA has the following seven-point checklist:

Leasehold vs Freehold – There are two main types of property ownership in the UK and you should always check which applies to the home you're buying. Leasehold means you effectively own the land on which the property is located for a defined period of time; extending this can incur a substantial fee. For this reason knowing the length of time remaining should be a key consideration. Freehold is more straightforward, although the details of the deed should always be checked over by a solicitor.

Access – Never assume you have automatic access rights to a property. Be sure to check this before you buy. Relying on a neighbour's goodwill for access via a shared drive, for example, can be risky. If circumstances change you could be left in a difficult

situation.

Boundaries – A property's legal boundaries may not be listed on the title deed. While physical boundaries (such as a fence or hedge) appear more obvious it is always worth consulting with your estate agent at viewing stage to ensure there is no confusion. Remember, you will be responsible for any trees or plants on your property that hang across boundaries.

What's listed? – Although listed buildings are a fairly well-known phenomenon, their restrictions can be complex, therefore it pays to check what the listing covers. For example, the status of features like fireplaces and windows should be checked before refurbishment.

Planning Permission – Just because an extension or loft conversion looks the part, it doesn't necessarily mean it has planning consent. Always check that any additions to the property have full written planning permission,

otherwise you could be left with the cost and responsibility of reverting the property back to its original state.

Block Parties – If you live in a shared block it can be managed in different ways, and this should be something the selling agent can clarify. On occasion, a block may be managed by an external agent, or the other leaseholders may have taken on management responsibilities as a group ('Right to Manage'). In both cases it is prudent to establish in advance what this means for you, both in terms of fees and responsibilities.

Future gazing – Remember to ask your agent if they are aware of any planned developments in the vicinity of the property. Under the revised consumer protection regulations, agents have an obligation to declare any information that consumers need in order to make informed decisions.

New role for Amy

Amy Claydon has been appointed branch manager at Leaders in Surbiton. She began her career in Weybridge and then worked in Walton and Kingston.

Amy has been with Leaders for six years and has more than eight years experience in lettings.

Leaders' area manager Sue Henderson said: "Amy will head up a team of seven staff and with her passion and commitment to providing an exceptional level of service to our landlords and tenants, I know she will ensure our clients in Surbiton are well looked after and receive the best possible service and advice."



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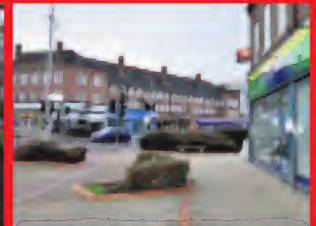
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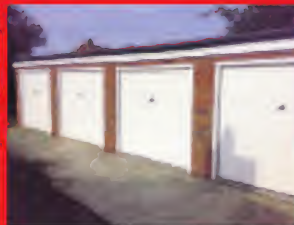
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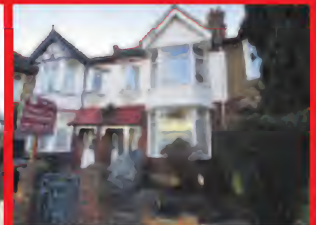
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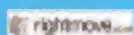
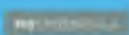
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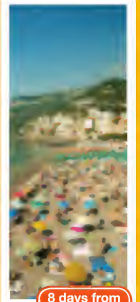
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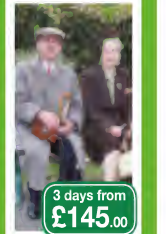
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Public Notices

Transport for London

**Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**

**The A3 GLA Road (Malden Way Junction With South Lane,
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames) (Temporary
Prohibition of Traffic) Order 2013**

- Transport for London hereby gives notice that it has made the above named Traffic Order under section 14(l) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the purpose specified in paragraph 2. The effect of the Order is summarised in paragraph 3.
- The purpose of the Order is to enable drainage gully installation works to take place on or near A3 Malden Way.
- The effect of the Order will be to prohibit any vehicle, except local buses, from entering, exiting or proceeding on the southern arm of South Lane between its junction with A3 Malden Way main carriageway and the extended southern building line of No. 250 Malden Way. Access from the Malden Way service road fronting Nos. 222 to 248 Malden Way will be maintained. The Order will be effective at certain times from 8:00 AM on 2nd March 2013 until 6:00 PM on 12th April 2013 or when the works have been completed whichever is the sooner. The prohibition will apply only during such times and to such extent as shall from time to time be indicated by traffic signs. The works are expected to be completed within 5 days.

- The prohibition will not apply in respect of:

- any vehicle being used for the purposes of those works or for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes;
- anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform or a person authorised by Transport for London.

- At such times as the prohibition is in force alternative routes will be indicated by traffic signs via (for South Lane southbound closure) A2043 Malden Road or the reverse to normal route of travel or A3 Malden Way, Kingston by pass, reverse course at Tolworth Roundabout, Malden Roundabout, A2043 Malden Road to normal route of travel (South Lane northbound closure) Sheephouse Way, Manor Drive and Tolworth Rise South to normal route of travel.

Dated this 28th day of February 2013

Roger Pye

**Forward Planning Manager Transport for London
Palestra, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NJ**

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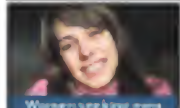
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28/02/2013



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SUNSHINE SMILE Serene, unique, attractive female, 39, friendly, enjoys nature, reading, music & fitness, wlm genuine, caring, non-smoking guy, 33-49, to share laughter and love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103375

COSMIC JOURNEY Sincere, African Kingston female, 39, looking for a white male, 40-48, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 134209

MISS ME MISS OUT Living, down to earth female, 40, 5'3", brown curly hair, divorcee, enjoys most things, looking for my soul mate. Walton-On-Thames. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 101283 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING MR RIGHT Young-looking, sunny single mum, 40, searching for an honest and loving man, who knows how to treat a lady. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 870981

HEART AND SOUL Fun and loving Mitcham girl, 40, with auburn hair, looking to meet a mediterranean or North African male, 38-45, for romance and a bright future. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 100179 or send a text to 80360

YOU LUCKY THING Decent-looking South London female, 41, enjoys pubs, cinema and lots of fun, searching for a related, nice guy, to share friendship, love and TLC. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 135923 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE FUN Slim, attractive, elegant Asian lady, 43, enjoys travel, socialising, keeping fit, seeks a similar Asian guy, 44-55, for friendship and love. Surrey. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 138920 or send a text to 80360

GO OUT TOGETHER Nice, warm-hearted, intelligent black female, 43, 5'8", laid-back, easygoing, enjoys travel, theatre, socialising, museums, seeks a tall, professional gent, 38-48, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 136933 or send a text to 80360

EVERYTHING POSSIBLE Bubbly, outgoing South London female, 43, likes cinema, wine bars, restaurants, music, theatre, reading, socialising and cosy nights in, seeking a sincere man, for laughter and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 124570 or send a text to 80360

AN OUTGOING PERSON Young-at-heart, Caribbean lady, 44, good sense of humour, likes the arts, cinema, dining out, looking for a caring, white male, to share life together. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 138474 or send a text to 80360

COMPLETE THE PUZZLE Divorced, black African Epsom lady, 47, likes family life, travel, dining out, would like to meet a white male, 48-55, for love, romance and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 137710 or send a text to 80360

ALL THIS AND MORE Single, fun-loving SW London woman, 49, outgoing, smart, attractive, enjoys music interests, from Art to beaches, seeking a similar guy, confident, fun & intelligent, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 117856

FOLLOW THE DREAM Youthful-looking, caring Surrey female, 49, N/5, petite, blonde, blue-eyes, GSOH, likes sports & animals, would like to meet a similar, genuine, white male, 39-49, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 132872

ROAD TO HAPPINESS Attractive, slim Asian lady, 50, intelligent, tall, young looking, enjoys socialising, seeking a genuine, well educated professional man, 45-55, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 113493

THE SPICE OF LIFE Sincere Surrey girl, 51, likes music, gardening, animals, countryside and pubs, looking for someone who is kind, caring and considerate, with a sense of humour. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 105081

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AFRICAN BEAUTY Nice, African Surrey woman, 51, looking for a nice white man for friendship which will hopefully lead to more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 132363

BESIDE EACH OTHER Bubbly, black Croydon law student, 51, enjoys travel, seeking funny, intellectual man, with own house and car, to enjoy good company with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 134120 or send a text to 80360

SMILES, TEARS OF LOVE Slim black lady, 51, from Surbiton, enjoys talks, walks, watching tennis, cooking and travel, looking for a mature white man, 49-54, who appreciates great company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 109178

SO MUCH ON OFFER Slim, trendy, green-eyed Epsom woman, aged 51 yrs, 5'5", professional alternative therapist, cosy flat/car and love, independent, searching for a slim/med guy, 5'10 kind and caring, laid back! Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 119180

CUDDLE UP CLOSE Shy and quiet female, 52, own home, searching for a hard-working, honest and decent man, for love and happiness. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 137198 or send a text to 80360

SHARE EACH OTHERS COMPANY Outgoing, thoughtful, passionate Tadworth woman, 56, likes most things, travel, reading, theatre, driving, cooking, would like to meet a man 40-45 to share interests together. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 115891

SETTING SLIP Slim, attractive, caring Morden Asian girl, 56, 5'5", loves cooking, drives and more, searching for a caring, non-smoking, kind white male, 56-68, for a permanent relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 12590

RELAXED AND OPEN-MINDED Warm, hazel-eyed Kingston widow, 57, 5'4", fair hair, N/5, GSOH, loves holidays, theatre, day trips out and garden centres, seeks a kind, caring chap, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 113972

MAKE A CHANGE Kind, aware and amenable Twickenham female, 58, 5'4", blonde-hair, curvy-build, retired, no-ties, would like to meet a helpful, reflective male, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 138756 or send a text to 80360

TABLE FOR TWO? Young-at-heart, 59 year old Charlton female, enjoys walks, reading, eating out and laughter, searching for a hard-working male, with own hair and teeth, for a lasting romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 866463

BEING GENUINE Genuine, attractive, stummish Croydon female, 60, 5'8", auburn hair, youthful, loves classical music, theatre, France and much more, looking for a tall, nonsmoking gent, for a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 468587

LET'S ENJOY TOGETHER Attractive, single, professional and solvent lady, 59, 5'7", dark brown hair and brown eyes, likes arts and antiques, theatre, cinema, music and dining out and cooking, wlm someone similar. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 115953 or send a text to 80360

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES Warm, affectionate, curvy, Teddington lady, 60, 5'6", hazel eyes, N/5, enjoys music, reading, travel, cinema, seeking a tall, smart male, 58-64, young at heart with a good sense of humour. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 133056

PURE INTENTIONS Passionate Tadworth lady, 61, likes travel, cooking, dancing and cinema, seeking an lively chap, 45-50, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 124071 or send a text to 80360

INTO THE FUTURE Lively, active Surrey lady, 61, likes country music, the beach, dance music and dancing, looking for a nice, kind, caring gent, 55-68, for fun, laughter and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 126334 or send a text to 80360

LET'S DANCE Blonde, outgoing Epsom woman, 62, blue eyes, active, 5'2", likes dancing, gardening, meals out, socialising and adventure, seeking a similar gentleman, fit, funny and genuine, for company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 122940

ENJOY GOOD TIMES Young 63yr old, dark hair, from Thames Ditton, loves 60s music, animals, reading, seeks sociable chap, for company. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 107078

LET THE SUN SHINE In Curvy, cuddly Kingston lady, 64, GSOH, kind, caring, likes cinema, meals out, places of interest and the coast, would like to meet a similar man, sociable, fun and honest, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 12646 or send a text to 80360

YOU MIGHT BE LUCKY Outgoing, brown-eyed Surbiton lady, 65, long dark hair, likes cooking, eating out, dancing and holidays abroad, seeking a nice gent, for companionship and lots more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 461376

THEY DO EXIST Energetic, pensive, reliable Croydon lady, 65, 5'2", wants to meet a stylish, focused guy, for fun times and happiness. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 136270 or send a text to 80360

CHARMED Attractive, slim, charming, black lady, 66, varied interests, enjoys the countryside, cooking, walking, seeking a friendly, fun, laughing and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 102118



GENERALLY SPEAKING Music mad, genuine E London guy, 24, 5'11", fit, loyal, enjoys most music, football, gym, concerts and films, searching for a bubbly and honest woman, for love and good times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 118595

IT'S GIVE & TAKE, RIGHT? Warm friendly guy, 36, loves talking, cooking, designing and the company of friendly people, seeking a natural woman, at peace with herself and the world, that has love to give. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 850776

PRINCE CHARMING Intelligent, funny, attractive Guildford man, 36, great conversationalist, plays golf, kind and caring. Are you a princess looking for your prince? Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 119408

FUN AND LAUGHTER Easygoing male, 37, 5'10", athletic build, wlm mature lady, 40+ for fun and adventurous together. Sutton Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103552

MUSICAL TYPE Sociable, upbeat Croydon male, 39, 6'3", likes live gigs, theatre, cinema and wine bars, seeks an easygoing, friendly woman, 30+, for fun, laughter and a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103727 or send a text to 80360

HERE'S TO THE FUTURE Self-employed outgoing Hampton male, 40, 6', likes winning & dining, sports, keeping fit, seeks downy, earth lady, for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 136583 or send a text to 80360

SEEKING MY SOULMATE Young at heart male, 41, enjoys life, lives in Sutton, looking for a like minded woman. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 108657

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SIMILAR WAVELENGTH? Genuine, happy Epsom guy, 42, slim build, 6'5", caring, enjoys cinema, going out, good food and evenings in, would like to meet a similar woman, bubbly and kind, for lots of laughter and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 125171 or send a text to 80360

FUTURE FUN Solvent, friendly Kingston guy, 44, 5'10", well-groomed, own flat, happy up for fun, socialising, restaurants, travelling, looking for an attractive, N/5 female, 46-56. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 128579 or send a text to 80360

MAKE EACH MOMENT SPECIAL Affectionate Isleworth male, 45, 6'2", athletic, non-smoker, own home, enjoys swimming, walks, pubs, restaurants and cinema, seeks a sociable, slim female, for a lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103086

THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE Happy, responsive and consistent Thornton Heath male, 46, 6'1", med build, enjoys restaurants, home life and more, simply searching for a focused, selfless girl, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 136250 or send a text to 80360

OPEN MY HEART Single dad, honest, fun loving, romantic, GSOH, 46, enjoys cooking, swimming, sports, holidays, seeking a slim female, with or without children for fun, friendship and maybe more. SW Lon Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112230

HAPPINESS AT LAST Easygoing, Guildford male, 46, fit & slim, divorced, landscape designer, many interests, looking for a lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112307 or send a text to 80360

THE BRIGHTEST STAR Genuine, fun Sutton male, 47, green eyes, med build, 5'10", have many interests, including an allotment and photography, seeking a kind, caring and adventurous woman, for love and a future. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 131707 or send a text to 80360

RECIPE FOR ROMANCE Easygoing Surbiton male, 48, 6'2", fair hair, brown eyes, medium build, loves pubs, wine bars, country walks, would love to meet a genuine friendly female for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 115665 or send a text to 80360

DREAM TOGETHER Easygoing Tadworth male, 48, good sense of humour, enjoys list to the full, dining out, eating in, seeks female, for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 159127 or send a text to 80360

CLOSE TO YOU Blue-eyed Surrey male, 48, 6'2", med build, loves cooking, wine bars and much more, seeks a like-minded, loving woman, to share the future. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 102483

GOOD FUN TO BE WITH Good-looking Purley male, 49, 5'11", medium-build, many interests, seeking an attractive, curvy female, for love and good times. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 127258 or send a text to 80360

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Honest, confident black male, 49, 5'11", med-build, would like to meet a tall, sophisticated, spontaneous black female, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 136644 or send a text to 80360

SHARE LIFE TOGETHER Happy-go-lucky male, 49, 6', dark hair, blue-eyes, slim-build, would like to meet a friendly, fun, friendly female. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 130306

MORE THAN FRIENDS Friendly, good-natured Surbiton male, 50, enjoys the countryside, cooking, walking, seeking a friendly, fun, laughing and more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 128520 or send a text to 80360

ENJOY YOURSELF Happy-go-lucky Surrey guy, 54, 6ft, with brown eyes, enjoys drives, new places, pubs, clubs and holidays, searching for a nice woman, to share love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 453647

NOTHING COMPARES Down-to-earth, genuine Greek-Cypriot man, 55, 5'7", searching for a reliable woman, for fun times and great friendship. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 110838

LET'S START NOW Confident, well-travelled Kingston male, 55, 5'11", ex rugby player, own house/car, likes pubs, restaurants, travelling, looking for an attractive, N/5 female, 46-56. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 128579 or send a text to 80360

ABOUT ME Confident, fit London male, 56, 5'9", green/grey eyes, enjoys keep fit, cinema, social drinks, holidays and more, seeks an attractive female, for friendship, leading to more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 121487

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DROP ME A LINE Youthful Croydon chap, 60, slim, 5'8", GSOH, enjoys pubs, countryside, fishing, modern and 60s music, seeking a similar outgoing and warm female, for friendship & maybe more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 112227

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Irishman living in London, 60, 5'6", painter and decorator, looking for a black lady, 5'6", slim-build, 45-55, with a good sense of humour. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 126309

SMILES BETTER TOGETHER Easygoing, blue-eyed Surrey male, 60, 6'2", grey hair, likes walks, drives and dining out, looking for a sincere woman, for lasting love. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103819

LIFE CAN BE BETTER Easygoing, solvent Mitcham male, 62, GSOH, romantic, N/5, likes coast drives, animals, nights in/out, cinema and music, seeking a slim, N/5 and happy woman, 50-60, for company and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 121487

SHE AWAKES YOUR Call Bright female, 48, lives in Mitcham, looking for straight forward friends, for shopping, cinema, theatre, chats & socialising. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 108685 or send a text to 80360

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HOPE TO FIND YOU Youthful looking, fit, Sutton man, 67, GSOH, retired & active, enjoys theatre, restaurants, dancing, social drinking, films, holidays, searching for a female companion, fit and fun for dating & more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 118641

FOR THE TAKING Smart, warm and attractive Sutton Widower, 68, varied interests, seeking a nice, honest lady, for friendship, company and perhaps more. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 103713

TIME FOR A CHANGE Responsible, intuitive and reliable Chislehurst male, 69, wishes to meet a positive, open female, for fun and romance. Call 0905 005 2490 and enter box number 133313 or send a text to 80360

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'Headphones should be banned'

Call to outlaw use of earpieces while driving

The vast majority of UK adults (83 per cent) would like to see wearing headphones while driving made illegal, according to a new research from the UK's biggest car leasing company, ContractHireAndLeasing.com.

At the moment, there is no direct law that says drivers cannot use headphones behind the wheel, although Rule 148 of the Highway Code does state that drivers should avoid distractions 'such as loud music'. As such, in the event of a collision, using headphones to listen to music could potentially be taken into account as evidence that you were driving without due care and attention.

While it remains a grey area in the law, it is clear that the majority of us dislike

other motorists using headphones.

In a survey of more than 2,000 UK residents, it was the older generations which most appear to find this behaviour unacceptable.

In particular, those aged over 45 felt strongly that headphone use behind the wheel should be outlawed, with 88 per cent saying they 'strongly agree' that it should, rising to 91 per cent for the 65 and overs.

This contrasts with the youngest age group, perhaps a group among the most likely to be tempted to use headphones, where only 38 per cent 'strongly agree' with the idea of a ban.



Likewise, the 25-34 age group was the most likely to strongly disagree with a ban, taking a 15 per cent share of their vote, while only four per cent of the 65+ age group said

they strongly disagreed with a ban. The rural South West was the region where drivers most supported a ban, with 62 per cent strongly agreeing to a ban compared to

Humberside, where just 45 per cent felt the same.

It would appear that the majority of motorists think that using headphones while driving amounts to an unnecessary risk and distraction.

Drivers using headphones to listen to music must also be careful not to hold any music playing device (phone or MP3 player for example) or be seen to take their eyes off the road to select a track.

In these situations, the argument that the behaviour is careless, gets stronger.

With a phone that plays music, there is also the chance you could be fined for using a mobile phone even if

you weren't making a call.

"While not strictly illegal, using headphones is probably even worse than playing loud music in your car," says the ContractHireAndLeasing.com's marketing manager, Richard Lawton.

Drivers using headphones to listen to music must also be careful not to hold any music playing device (phone or MP3 player for example) or be seen to take their eyes off the road to select a track. "As well as the music being distracting, the headphones work like earplugs and block out the noises from the road around you - that could be the screech of tyres warning you of a potential collision, or the sirens of an emergency vehicle trying to get past."

"We would like to see the government bring in a clear ban as an unnecessary risk is being taken when drivers plug-in and drive," he added.



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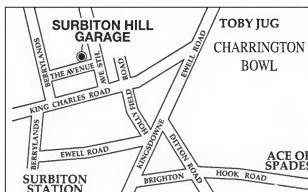
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Surbiton drop a spot in Euro quest

Surbiton Men extended their unbeaten run in the English Hockey League Premier Division to eight games with a 2-2 draw at Cannock, but they still dropped a place to fifth in the table.

Goals on Sunday from James Gall and Rob Moore, *pictured*, ensured a share of

the spoils, but Reading's 8-1 win over Canterbury on Saturday saw them leapfrog Surbiton and Cannock into third.

Surbiton face league leaders Beeston on Sunday at Sugden Road in their continuing fight to get a top-four Euro-qualifying play-off spot.

kingstonguardian.co.uk



Motivated: Jane Wilson, right, and Fiona Rennie

Always up for her Breakfast

Jane Wilson took on the Kingston Breakfast run to get fit after the birth of her two children 15 years' ago, and she has not stopped.

The 48-year-old Teddington mum is the only runner to have contested all 15 Kingston Breakfast Runs since its inception in 1998, and she will be on the start line again this year, with Twickenham's Fiona Rennie.

"Running to keep fit is all very well, but you have to do races to keep motivated," she said.

"I've run all my life, but not taken it that seriously. I started training with my friend Fiona and did my first Breakfast Run after having my children. We've just sort of kept it up really.

"The course is so pretty, particularly by Hampton Court where people stop and support. There is a great atmosphere."

● The Kingston Whole Foods Breakfast Run, organised by Human Race, takes place in Kingston on March 24. For more details, visit humanrace.co.uk.



Mead's learning curve

by CHARLIE TALBOT-SMITH

sports@london.newsquest.co.uk

Kingston's Darcie Mead admits she feels like a far better skier after an impressive showing on her British debut at the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival.

The 16-year-old was in action twice last week in Brasov, Romania, where she finished 28th in the giant slalom and 31st in the slalom.

And, with the Italian Championships still to come this season, Mead, who attends Surbiton High School, insists she has learned a great deal from taking on the best in Europe.

"The Festival has given me more confidence in myself and in my ability, I was quite nervous coming into the competition," said Mead.

"I wasn't sure how far off the pace I would be or how far back I would be. I just wanted to do well and show that a girl from Britain can still be good at a snow sport.

"The slalom went OK. It went better than I expected. I started quite far back in 56th and my aim was to jump up 10 bibs and I finished 31st so that is a big improvement.

"Slalom is not my strongest discipline to start with anyway but to race against girls I have raced against before and see how quick I am in comparison has been really encouraging."

"The



Slick on the slopes: Darcie Mead says she has gained so much experience from the European Youth Olympic Festival it has motivated her to push on to the next level

top 15 girls here all ski full-time. They go to school in the summer whereas I have to juggle skiing and school, so it's nice to be with them and in that environment.

"In the giant slalom I was gutted to finish 34th after the first run but then to finish in 28th is a big jump for me and I am happy with that result.

"That has motivated me to do well and to keep training, keep working hard and do more gym work."

More than 900 athletes from across Europe were in

action at the festival. And for Mead the chance to mix with the British team, who had Olympic skeleton champion Amy Williams in their group as an ambassador, was a privilege in itself.

She said: "Having Amy to talk to was really motivating. It was good to have someone with her experience. It's annoying hearing it from my coach all the time and, as much as I appreciate it, it is nice to hear it from someone else."

The British Olympic Association prepares and leads British athletes at the summer, winter and youth Olympic Games. It works in partnership with sport National Governing Bodies to enhance Olympic success and is responsible for championing the Olympic values. See olympics.org.uk



The girl behind the mask: Kingston's Darcie Mead

SPORTSbrief

FOOTBALL: Corinthian Casuals were on "five form" in Ryman Division One South on Saturday thanks to a 5-1 demolition of fellow strugglers Whitstable Town. Bashiru Ali, Craig Mullen (two), Joe Hicks and Jamie Byatt got the goals that lifts the Casuals five points above the drop zone. They were looking to make it three league wins on the spin on Tuesday night at Merstham, and they host Horsham on Saturday.

RUGBY UNION: Kingston rugby player Abigail Chamberlain's first appearance at Twickenham stadium in England Women colours ended in disappointment on the back of a 30-20 defeat against France. The 28-year-old Richmond centre is expected to be named in the squad to face Italy at Esher's Molesey Road ground on March 9.

HOCKEY EVENT: Surbiton Hockey Club will be hosting "the Big Weekend" as part of the England Hockey Board's series of showcase events. The event, held on March 2 and 3, coincides with both elite sides in home action, and is supported by side-show attractions. For all details, go to surbitonhc.com.

RUGBY UNION: After a weekend break, Kingston return to action in Surrey Division One on Saturday at leaders Farnham.

Leonard hails Robshaw

British & Irish Lions hero Jason Leonard has likened England skipper and Kingston-based Chris Robshaw to legendary Lions and England captain Martin Johnson.

Johnson, a three-time Lions tourist, lifted the World Cup for England in 2003 having won a Lions series as captain in South Africa in 1997.

The 42-year-old former Leicester Tigers lock led the Lions to a 2-1 series win over the Springboks having never captained his country before.

Robshaw, who made his England debut in 2009, is still in his fledgling years as England captain having taken over the role in January last year, but he has already led the team to notable wins over New Zealand, Ireland and France.

And Leonard reckons Lions coach Warren Gatland could

do worse than look in the Robshaw's direction when choosing his man.

"He has to be in the mix," he said.

"He leads from the front and by example. The great captains I've played under – like Martin Johnson – do exactly the same.

"They are the guys you want to put your body on the line for because you know they would do everything and more for you."

Robshaw, *pictured*, was named man of the match in the weekend's 23-13 RBS Six Nations win over France at Twickenham stadium.

England now need to beat Italy at Twickenham on March 10 and Wales at the Millennium stadium on March 16 to seal a first Grand Slam since 2003.



Kings reign

Kingston AC & Polytechnic Harriers youngsters are in prime position going into next month's final round of the Downs League.

After Sunday's third round meeting, Kingston led in all age categories from U11 to U15.

Jorge Beltrao led the U11s home in 11 minutes, eight seconds to keep Kingston at the top of the table.

Sam Shaw (12.07) won the U13s category to help keep his team 75 points ahead overall.

In the U15s, Harry Reynolds (11.09) took top spot to keep Kingston at the table's summit.

The final League meeting is on March 10.



Close: Kingstonian's Ian Gayle goes close in the Ks' 2-1 defeat to Canvey Island

Deadline: SP72984

Dowson: Stop stupid talk

Ks manager Alan Dowson wants people to stop making stupid comments about his team's promotion chances.

Ks lost 2-1 at the weekend at home to Ryman Premier Division high-fliers Canvey Island, and in spite of the loss, Dowson cannot believe they are being written off.

Ahead of Tuesday night's trip to Harrow Borough,

Dowson said: "There are 16 more games to go. That's 48 more points. It's daft to say we're out of the promotion race. One win and we're back in the play offs. Even if we lose to Harrow, this stupid talk is nonsense."

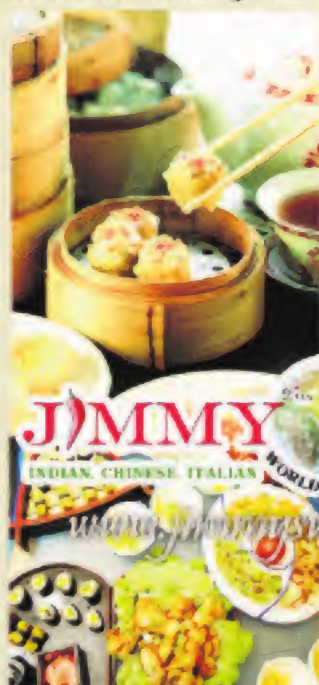
Ks, for whom Andre McCollin scored on Saturday, host East Thurrock United this weekend.

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ANTIQUES VALUATION ROADSHOW COMES TO CHESSINGTON

IN ALMOST every home in the country there is a corner where something of value lies hidden away that could be turned into cash.

That's the message organisers of the Pastcenturies Valuation Roadshow wish to impart as the company visits selected venues throughout England.

Often valuable and antique articles have been hidden away for security reasons and lie forgotten about. The good news is that many of these items have increased in value in recent years and are now sought after by collectors and dealers alike.

With many years of experience, and using the latest in information technology, we can value practically every type of object from paintings to porcelain, glass, bronze, art, jewellery. In fact most items of interest.

Pastcenturies are holding Antiques Venues throughout the Country. On a recent Roadshow an elderly gentleman had quite a surprise. He produced an 18 carat Gold pocketwatch. Although the watch was damaged beyond repair he received £720 for the Gold content alone. At the same event a lady was paid £600 for a group of World War One medals she had thought were of little value. These are common occurrences at the roadshows.

Free Valuations

With it's free valuation service, and no obligation to sell, what is there to lose? Bring along anything you think of interest, there's no limit to the amount of items. It may be well worth your while!

To contact us telephone: 01273 509333



Trade winds from the East

Chinese porcelain, silver, jade and antiques have travelled the World for centuries landing in many countries. These days the greatest market are the Chinese themselves, buying back many articles and creating a huge demand for quality items. Bring along anything you think of interest for a free valuation.

Collectables

These days many items are of interest to collectors. Bring along any items of Amber, Coral, Jade, Ivory Jet etc. Old Silver Jewellery and Collectables eg: Snuff & Vesta Boxes, Photo Frames, Cigarette & Cigar Boxes. Pottery and Porcelain: Carltonware, Susie Cooper, Poole. Whitefriars Glass. Quality Wristwatches: Omega, Longines, Rolex. Dunhill Lighters, Coin Collections, Tinplate Toys, China Headed Dolls, Decorative Items, Furniture, Lamps, Oriental Carpets, Signed Memorabilia etc - the list is endless.

The Mighty Pen



Fountain Pens, once a symbol of elegance, are once again in demand. Makers such as Mont Blanc, Watermans, Parker, Scheaffer and Conway Stewart are sought after. If you have a fountain pen, pen set, or other writing items bring them along for a valuation or cash offer.

War Medals & Memorabilia



Medal Collectors have become increasingly anxious to purchase all types of medals and memorabilia, particularly from WWI and earlier campaigns, but we are interested in all Medals from all countries, many which have increased in value in recent years. Do bring along any items you think may be of interest for a free valuation or an excellent CASH offer

Coin Collections



Having clientele for rare and collectable coins the Roadshow is able to value and purchase many types of coins and collections. With high bullion prices being paid, Gold and Silver coins are in high demand, but can often have a premium above their bullion value. The Roadshow is offering excellent prices on all of your items.

Chessington Roadshow Details

The Roadshow will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, set within the Chessington World of Adventures on Leatherhead Road, Chessington. They will be there for two days only on Tuesday the 5th and Wednesday the 6th of March from 10am-4pm. Parking for the Hotel is in the NORTH car park.

If you cannot attend and would like a home appointment please telephone:

01273 509333

CASH OFFERS

The Pastcenturies Valuation Roadshow is in your area offering free professional valuations or instant cash offers on many antique and collectable items. So take a good look, search out any things you think of interest, and bring them along to the Roadshow. You may find it's well worth your while.

Bring along any articles of jewellery, silver, furniture, clocks and watches, oil paintings and water colours, porcelain and pottery, glassware, Ivory, bronze, etc.

Classic Wristwatches	Precious Gemstones	Jewellery	Object D'Art
Rolex Cartier Longines Omega Universal Breitling Patek Philippe			
Oil Paintings & Watercolours	Furniture & Clocks	Antique Silverware	Porcelain & Glass

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

With HIGH prices being paid for Gold many articles have risen in value! Why not take advantage? For an up to date valuation or for an excellent CASH offer on your articles of Gold, there has never been a better time to search out and bring them along to the Roadshow:

OLD - WEDDING BANDS - SIGNET RINGS - BRACELETS - BANGLES
GOLD CHARMS - CUFFLINKS - STUDS - GOLD COINS SOVEREIGNS
ETC - FOREIGN AND UNHALLMARKED GOLD - DAMAGED AND
BROKEN ITEMS SUCH AS: RINGS - BROOCHES - LOCKETS
EARRINGS CHAINS - WRISTWATCHES - POCKETWATCHES - ETC

Silver has also risen in value so bring along items such as:

OLD PRE-1947 SILVER COINAGE - SILVER CIGARETTE CASES -
CUTLERY - TEA SETS - TRAYS - BROKEN AND DAMAGED ARTICLES

Bring along any items of interest, you will be suprised at their value.

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The Pastcenturies Antique Valuation Show is on the road offering the highest possible cash settlements for all your items of Gold, Silver, jewellery, watches and objet d'art. We offer immediate cash payment!

- We require: all Diamond & Gem set jewellery.
- Wristwatches, top prices paid: Omega, Rolex, Longines
- Old oil paintings, watercolours, antique silverware.
- Military medals, coin collections, vintage fountain pens.
- Ivory, Bronze, Glass, Pottery, Porcelain, Object D'art.
- Studio pottery: Clarice Cliff, Moorcroft, Doulton, Beswick.
- Antique toys & dolls, oriental porcelain and bronze etc.

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